

Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, July 19, 2001
Stamford, Connecticut

Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Tedesco asked if there were any changes to the April 19 management committee meeting minutes. As no changes were proposed, the minutes were approved. After self-introductions of attendees (see Attachment 1) Tedesco proceeded to the following agenda items.

1. Report on the March 8 CAC Meeting

The CAC co-chairs were unable to attend the meeting, so there was no formal CAC report. [N.B. Following is the status of the Action items from the April 19 management committee meeting: Action 1) Committee staff members submitted information for the 2000 CCMP Implementation Tracking Report; staff have reviewed a draft of the report and are making additional changes; a final report will be issued prior to the September 13 CAC meeting. Actions 2 & 3) As described below, the committee has approved formation of a Living Marine Resources work group, which will be responsible for reviewing and commenting on the CAC LMR mission statement; Action 4) NYSDEC and CTDEP have responded to the CAC's March 22, 2001 letter concerning storm water regulations; a copy of the CTDEP May 11, 2001 response and NYSDEC May 15, 2001 response was provided in the June 13, 2001 CAC meeting minutes. The new list of CAC members for 2001/2002 was entered into the record *in absentia*; see Attachment 2.]

2. LISS FY2001 Work Plan/Budget Proposals

Mark Tedesco summarized the results of the LISS FY2001 budget and work plan recommendations from the April 19 meeting. Tedesco reported that under the final NEP funding guidance LISS did receive the \$300,000 base program funds as well as the \$20,000 supplemental and \$10,000 national travel funds. Less a mandatory rescission of .022% and payback of previously expended carryover funds, the amount available for decision is \$275,000. Tedesco introduced Mel Coté, who reviewed the Implementation Team's recommendations on the use of these funds (See Attachment 3). After discussion in which committee members expressed their views on the team's recommendations, the committee agreed to the budget allocations that are included in Attachment 4. The committee agreed that if funding were available, it would be applied to worthy research projects under the research RFP. [NB: Subsequent to the meeting, EPA Headquarters issued a notice that each NEP was to receive an additional \$10,000 in funding; this funding was a make-up from other EPA funds provided to the NEPs to make up a reduction attributed to the LISS receiving its full allocation of NEP funding.]

3. Long Island Sound Agreement

Mark Tedesco reported for the LIS2001 agreement team. The team had reviewed a draft agreement. Paul Stacey expressed concern that the draft agreement contained items that required action from agencies outside of CTDEP, and some that were outside the scope of the CCMP. Stacey indicated that CTDEP would not be in a position to begin scheduling the agreement signing ceremony with the Governor's office until a nearly final agreement has been developed. The team is scheduled to meet on July 27 to work out the details of an agreement that can be moved forward for Executive review. [NB: The team met on July 27 and subsequently agreed to a final draft that is undergoing Executive review by the states and EPA.]

4. Living Marine Resources

Mark Tedesco introduced Dr. Gary Wikfors of NOAA's Milford Lab, who presented a proposal to form a new living marine resources work group of the management committee. The work group would be a new entity with a new mission and vision to be refined by the work group. The group would meet periodically at its discretion and report back to the management committee with its progress and any recommendations. Dr. Wikfors called on the committee to assist with nominations to the work group, and asked that names be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

Action 1: Nominations for the LMR subcommittee should be forwarded to the LISO and Dr. Wikfors.

5. System-Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM)

Mark Tedesco introduced James Fitzpatrick and Robin Miller of HydroQual, Inc., who presented an overview of the SWEM model compared with the LIS 3.0 model, focusing on comparisons between East River transport calculations. Tedesco briefly reviewed the development of the SWEM model. At its July 20, 2000 meeting, the management committee approved a statement of support for the SWEM model and recommendations for action by the Systemwide Nutrients Work Group to ensure its acceptance as an improved technical tool for the LISS. [see Attachment 5] At that time CTDEP had identified several concerns with the model results for East River transport, and agreed to provide its concerns to the work group in a revised comment package. There were a number of meetings over the last year to address the issues raised by CTDEP; these were satisfactorily resolved through the combined efforts of the work group, HydroQual and the Model Evaluation Group (MEG), which were documented in technical memoranda dated March 2, 2001 and May 17, 2001. CTDEP, NYSDEC and EPA LISO documented their satisfaction with the SWEM model in a June 5, 2001 letter to NYCDEP [see Attachment 6]. Summarizing, Tedesco indicated that the

Nutrient Work Group and MEG recommended that the SWEM model be accepted for management application. All of the issues and concerns raised by the group had been explained or resolved to the group's satisfaction. Tedesco asked for concurrence on this recommendation, and after brief discussion, the committee gave its approval. [NB: For a copy of the presentation slides, contact the LISO]

6. LIS Research Request for Proposals (RFP)

Mark Tedesco reported that the LISS FY2001 research RFP had been released on July 3, and it is posted on the LISS website, <http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis>. The RFP had been developed in consultation with the CAC's living marine resource subcommittee, and is focused on several important areas of research including: 1) nutrient and phytoplankton dynamics; 2) factors controlling the timing, intensity, and fate of primary production; 3) mechanisms by which hypoxia develops; 4) benthic processes and elemental cycling; 5) factors affecting the distribution, abundance, and trends of recreationally, commercially, or ecologically important living resources; 6) submerged aquatic vegetation; 7) development of ecological indicators of the health of Long Island Sound; 8) management of nutrient sources; 9) sea level rise impacts; and 10) innovative research. The schedule calls for preproposals to be submitted by August 3. Tedesco invited committee members or their representatives to participate on the relevancy review team that will decide which preproposals qualify to submit full proposals. The team will meet at least once in August and each member will receive all of the preproposals for review. [NB: 37 preproposals were received by the closing date of the RFP. The relevance review was conducted on August 22, 2001.]

7. Updates

2000 CCMP Implementation Tracking Report – Joe Salata reported that the principal reporting agencies had submitted their data for the 2000 T&M report; a draft has been prepared and sent to the CAC tracking & monitoring subcommittee for review. The subcommittee will provide comments on its August conference call in preparation for the September 13 CAC meeting. Plans are to finalize the 2000 report including several format modifications recommended by the Implementation Team; the Team will make recommendations on the format for the 2001 report after considering CAC suggestions.

CT Nitrogen Trading Legislation

Martin Overton reported that on July 6 Governor Rowland had signed the nitrogen trading legislation that had been passed on the last day of the current session of the Connecticut General Assembly. The nitrogen trading program is now the law in Connecticut, and CTDEP is developing the program to implement the law.

Volunteer Monitoring Workshop

Mark Tedesco advised the group that the LISO in coordination with EPA Headquarters is sponsoring a water quality monitoring workshop for volunteer monitors. The workshop will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 25-26, 2001 at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point facility and hosted by Project Oceanology. EPA will pay the costs of travel, lodging, food and workshop materials.

Sound Off Public Comment Period

Mark Tedesco opened the floor to public comment and recognized Art Glowka, who expressed dissatisfaction with the change in timing for the public comment period to the end of the meeting. Glowka felt that this diminished the importance of the public attending the meeting by making them wait until the end of the meeting to speak. Tedesco pointed out that he opens the floor to public comment at appropriate times during the meeting and that placement of the public comment period at the end of the meeting is consistent with procedure at other public meetings where business is first conducted and then the public is invited to speak. Glowka took issue with the SWEM model, questioning its cost and accuracy.

Wrap Up & October Agenda Items

Mark Tedesco advised that the next management committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2001 in Stamford. Tedesco indicated that the committee's discussion had identified the following topic for the October agenda: follow up to the formation of the living marine resources subcommittee. Management Committee members should submit any other agenda topics to LISO by Thursday, September 27, 2001. The implementation team meets on that date to finalize the agenda.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2001 in New York City at the Pfizer World Headquarters building, 235 East 42nd Street.

There being no other business, Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

List of Attachments

1. July 19 meeting attendee List
2. 2001 CAC membership list
3. List of proposed FY2001 projects
4. List of funded FY2001 projects
5. Management Committee Statement on SWEM
6. June 5, 2001 letter to NYCDEP